

Ms. Renata B. Hesse  
Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice  
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Dear Ms Hesse:

By way of introduction, my name is John A. Mulhall. I am a practicing pharmacist with Eckerd Drug in Syracuse, New York. As a taxpayer and consumer, I strongly support the proposed settlement with Microsoft in the government's long-standing Clinton-era antitrust lawsuit.

So far, it has been estimated that the lawsuit has cost the American taxpayers more than \$35 million. What a waste of taxpayer dollars in this witch hunt! I urge you to put a stop to this travesty of justice NOW.

The way I see it, this lawsuit has been nothing more than a form of welfare for Netscape and other competitors of Microsoft, as well as a way for states to get "free" money. It has done absolutely nothing for those supposedly harmed by Microsoft, the computer users of this nation, and has greatly discouraged technological innovation. This is not "the American Way". At least not the America in my mind's eye.

The waste of taxpayer dollars aside, I, for one, hold the United States government, and specifically the Department of Justice, responsible for crippling this premier high-tech cog in the nation's economy. Is this really an opportune time when we can afford to continue to harm the backbone of this country? Has not the DOJ suffered enough "black eyes"?

Microsoft has already agreed to hide its Internet Explorer icon from the desktop. The proposed settlement is in the best interest of all involved:

- Microsoft: can continue to provide innovative software that integrates new products
- Competitors: can return to the creation of new products which can be incorporated or made compatible with Windows
- Consumers: can have more software choices
- Investors: can have marketplace stability

If the lawsuit is allowed to continue, the expenditures involved will be even more outrageous to the American taxpayer than they already are. The nine states and the District of Columbia still involved in the case have retained many high-priced lawyers intent on dragging this out for a very long time. They have issued twice as many requests for information, including frivolous subpoenas of non-involved third parties, during the remedy phase of the trial than the previous 19 states did in the entire liability phase.

It is high time to put an end to this abuse of hard-working American taxpayers. The economy is in dire need of a remedy to this situation. The proposed settlement is a fair one. I thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this very important matter. It is my hope that you and your staff can keep me up-to-date regarding the status of the settlement.

Sincerely Yours,



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